LPG connections for the quarter January-March, 1997 which is yet to be exhausted can be utilised in the calendar year 1997 as per guidelines already printed on the front of Priority Voucher Booklet and on the reverse of each Special Priority Voucher i.e. "Priority Vouchers are valid only if issued during 1997". However, the question of discontinuing issue of priority vouchers to Members of Parliament is being examined in the light of the announcement made by Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha on 26.2.97 to discontinue priority connections to M.Ps from 1.4.97.

Increase in quota of bitumen for Gujarat

2754. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has been pressing to increase the quota of bitumen, in view of the constraints of supply and the delay suffered in execution of road construction works in the State; and

(b) if so, the precise demand made by the State Government and the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has not requested for any increase in the allocation of bitumen. The State Government had only requested for ensuring adequate supplies against the allocation in view of certain constraints felt in the supplies in the earlier part of 1996-97.

Based on the State's requirement of bitumen as reported by the Oil Companies, the Government has allocated 284 TMT of bitumen (bulk: 271 TMT and packed: 13 TMT) during 1996-97.

Expenditure on oil imports during the Eighth Five Year Plan

2755. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have spent Rs. 93000 crores on oil imports during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check this alarming increae in oil imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During VIII Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 93,492 crores approximately has been spent on oil imports.

(b) To contain oil import bill, steps are being taken to increae refinery capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in the joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Consumption of Natural Gas

2756. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total consumption of natural gas in the country;

(b) the percentage of the natural gas used as feedstock in power sector, fertilizers and other core sectors; and

(c) the percentage of natural gas used in the non-priority sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R

BAALU): (a) to (c) Currently, around 58.8 MMSCMD of gas is consumed in the various sectors as shown below:

Sector	MMSCMD
Internal Use/ LPG/C2/C3	10.2
Fertilizers	20.9
Power	18.9
Sponge Iron	3.2
Others	5.6

रसोई गैस के कनेक्शनों के लिए राज्य सभा के सदस्यों का कोटा समाप्त किया जाना

2757. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:**
श्री मुकेश आर० पटेल:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को रसोई गैस के कनेक्शनों के लिए राज्य सभा के सदस्यों का विशेष कोटा बन्द करने हेतु कोई सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या अप्रैल, 1997 से प्रारम्भ होने वाली तिमाही का कोटा जारी किया जा रहा है; और

(घ) क्या यह निर्णय दोनों सदनों के सदस्यों के संबंध में लागू होगा?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) श्री वी० किशोर चन्द्र एस० देव, संसद सदस्य से संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय के माध्यम से एक पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है, जो प्रधान मंत्री जी को सम्बोधित है। इसमें यह सलाह दी गई है कि केन्द्रीय विद्यालय में स्थानों, टेलीफोन और गैस कनेक्शन के संबंध में संसद सदस्यों को प्रदान किया जाने वाला विवेकाधीन कोटा समाप्त कर दिया जाना चाहिए।

(ग) और (घ) अप्रैल, 1997 से आरम्भ होने वाली तिमाही के लिए संसद सदस्यों द्वारा एल पी जी कनेक्शन जारी करने की जांच लोक सभा के माननीय अध्यक्ष द्वारा 26.2.1997 को की गई इस आशय की घोषणा के परिप्रेक्ष्य में की जा रही है कि संसद सदस्यों द्वारा टेलीफोन और एल पी जी कनेक्शन जारी करना 1.4.97 से रोक देना चाहिए।

Gas Reserves Near Jaisalmer

2758. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Seismic Survey Maps of ONGC and OIL indicate persence of vast gas reserves in Rajasthan, near Jaisalmer; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to exploit these reserves; if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The presence of hydrocarbons cannot be directly inferred from seismic survey maps. However, based on geoscientific surveys and exploratory drilling, five gas bearing structures viz. Manhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar, Bakhri Tibba and Bankia have been discovered and a result thereof, as on 1.4.96, initial inplace reserves of 2.38 BCM of gas have been established by ONGC in the Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan.

OIL has also carried out exploration activities in Rajasthan and discovered gas at 6 places viz. Tanot, Dandewala, Baggi Tibba, Jalalwala, Ramgarh and Gamnewala. As on 1.4.96 OIL has established inplace reserves of 8.789 BCM of gas in Jaisalmer basin in Rajasthan.

(b) Both ONGC and OIL are producing gas in Rajasthan. The current production is around 0.33 MMSCMD.